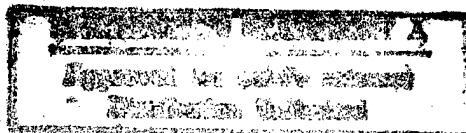


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USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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21 October 1982

**USSR REPORT
POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS**

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INTERNATIONAL

RULING PARTIES IN SOCIALIST-ORIENTATION AFRICAN STATES SURVEYED

Moscow NAUCHNYY KOMMUNIZM in Russian No 3, 1982 pp 87-93

[Article by Yu. G. Sumbatyan, candidate in philosophical sciences, docent:
"The Socialist Orientation in the Formation of Vanguard Parties in Africa"]

[Text] The socialist orientation is one of the important problems of Marxist-Leninist theory which have been raised by the practice of the revolutionary struggle of the peoples who have liberated themselves from the yoke of colonialism and which require a profound theoretical interpretation. This problem received a creative development in the documents and materials of the 26th CPSU Congress in which a profound analysis has been given of those developing countries which, after their liberation from the yoke of colonialism, embarked upon a revolutionary democratic path. These are states with a socialist orientation, countries which have selected the path of socialist development. (See: "Materials of the 26th CPSU Congress," Moscow, 1981, p 11) Today there are around 20 such states in the world with a population of more than 150 million people and a territory of more than 12 million square kilometers. The largest number of countries with a socialist orientation (more than 10) are in Africa. They account for 30 percent of the territory and almost 25 percent of the population of the continent. (See: MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN', No 8, 1979, p 104; KOMMUNIST, No 18, 1980, p 91)

Not only is the number of socialist orientation countries increasing on the African continent, there is also taking place definite qualitative changes in them. The 26th CPSU Congress named the general and similar directions of the development of these countries: "They are a gradual elimination of the positions of the imperialist monopolies and of the local big bourgeoisie and the feudalists, and a restriction on the activities of foreign capital. They include ensuring the people's state of the command heights in the economy, a transition to the planned development of the productive forces, and the encouragement of the cooperative movement in the village. They include an increased rôle for the working masses in public life, and the gradual strengthening of the state apparatus with national cadres which are devoted to the people. And they include the anti-imperialist character of the foreign policy of these countries." ("Materials of the 26th CPSU Congress," p 12)

The successful realization of the above-named democratic socio-economic and political transformations in the African countries will depend to a large

extent upon a battle-worthy and effective political system, and, above all, upon a political party which is capable of defending the gains of the revolution, suppressing the resistance of domestic and foreign reactionary forces, and organizing and directing the constructive activities of the popular masses aimed at the realization of the democratic transformations. It is stated in the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress that in the socialist orientation countries "revolutionary parties which express the interests of the broad toiling masses are growing stronger." (Ibid.) These are national democratic, revolutionary democratic and vanguard workers' parties, and other progressive parties, and united national fronts which have the task not only of playing an important role in the democratic transformations of the African countries on the path of social progress, but also of developing a correct strategy and correct tactics in the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, and racism and for peace, democracy, national independence, and socialism.

The revolutionary parties are neither proletarian nor bourgeois parties, for their social-class basis is not a single class, but a block of diverse class forces which is based on the peasantry, the emergent working class, the petty bourgeoisie, the progressive intelligentsia, and so forth which have taken up an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, and anti-capitalist struggle. With this kind of broad social-class basis for the revolutionary parties, and with a working class which is still in the formation stage and is insufficiently organized, the forefront is occupied by the progressive intelligentsia (civilian and military)--products basically of the petty bourgeoisie, that is, of those strata of society which in their social position are closer to the working masses than to the bourgeoisie.

V. I. Lenin has given a comprehensive characterization of the revolutionary democracy. "If," V. I. Lenin wrote, "the words--'revolutionary democracy'--are to be used not as a showy cliche phrase and not as a conventional name, and if thought is given to their meaning, then to be a democrat means to really take account of the interests of the majority of the people and not the minority and to be a revolutionary means to smash everything harmful and outmoded in the most resolute and most merciless way." (V. I. Lenin, "Complete Works," Vol 34, p 166) At the same time, the revolutionary democracy reflects not only the interests of the working class, but also the interests of the peasantry, the petty bourgeoisie, and the intelligentsia which belong to the non-proletarian strata, a fact which to a large degree determines the social heterogeneity and the contradictory nature of the revolutionary democracy both in theory and in practice.

Lenin's appraisal of the revolutionary democracy serves as the methodological basis for an analysis of the essence of and for the classification of the revolutionary parties which are leading the African socialist orientation countries. On the basis of the degree of the political independence, level of economic development, social-class structure, and domestic and foreign policies of the socialist orientation states, the revolutionary parties of the African countries may be subdivided into the following groups: national democratic parties (the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (NFDR)

in Madagascar which unites six primarily national democratic political parties); revolutionary democratic parties (the National Liberation Front (FLN) in Algeria, the Party-State of Guinea (PSG) in Guinea, and others); and vanguard workers' parties (FNLA--the Labor Party in Angola, the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) in Mozambique, the Congolese Labor Party (CLP) in the Congo, and others).

Every revolutionary party of the socialist orientation countries is marked by its own characteristics of emergence, establishment, and development, which places a stamp upon the structure and principles of the organization of the party, and upon its activities. With the deepening of socio-economic and political transformations the revolutionary parties may move from one group into another, or be in a stage of formation. As an example, one may point to the Commission for the Organization of an Ethiopian Workers' Party (COEWP) which has the task of creating a vanguard workers' party in Ethiopia.

At the same time, the revolutionary parties have a number of common features which make it possible for them to carry out a democratic program on the path of noncapitalist development. Among these common features, a special place is occupied by the evolution of the revolutionary party into a vanguard revolutionary democratic workers' party.

The process of the formation of the vanguard revolutionary democratic parties has its own distinctive features for each country which are the result of the concrete historical conditions of their political and socio-economic development. In some African countries (Angola, Mozambique, and so forth) the development of revolutionary democratic parties of a broad national front type into vanguard parties occurred during the process of the development and consolidation of the socialist orientation. In others (Benin, the Congo, Ethiopia, and others) the revolutionary military circles which came to power as a result of military coups dissolved the old political parties and began to create new vanguard revolutionary democratic parties.

The formation of vanguard political parties is of especial importance for those African countries in which profound political and socio-economic transformations have occurred as a result of which they have entered into a new stage of development--the stage of the development of the national democratic revolution into a people's democratic revolution.

What is the place of the vanguard party in this process? Before replying to this question, it is necessary to understand the essence and characteristics of this party. Especially since there is no single opinion on this question among the representatives of revolutionary democracy in the African socialist orientation countries.

Some of the (representatives of the revolutionary democracy in Angola, Mozambique, the Congo) believe that the vanguard revolutionary democratic party is a party of the working class whose ideological basis is Marxism-Leninism. Thus, speaking at the 26th CPSU Congress, the Chairman of the FNLA--Labor Party--

and President of the People's Republic of Angola Jose Eduardo dos Santos said: "Our people is moving along the road toward the construction of socialism. . . . Under the specific conditions of Angola our party is gradually becoming established as a Marxist-Leninist party." (PRAVDA, 27 February 1981)

Other representatives of revolutionary democracy (in particular, the leadership of the National Liberation Front in Algeria) and a number of national democratic parties in the Arab countries see the vanguard character of the party chiefly in the fact that it carries out the leadership of the people in its struggle for socialism. "The National Liberation Front," it is noted in the National Charter of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, "is a vanguard party. It is the organization of all of the conscious elements which stand for the accomplishment of a single task and for single actions whose supreme goal is the triumph of socialism." ("National Charter of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic," Moscow, 1979, p 56)

Still other representatives of revolutionary democracy advance their own conceptions regarding the evolution of a revolutionary party into a vanguard party. The leaders of Tanzania, for example, believe that a genuinely revolutionary party is one which is at the same time a vanguard and a mass party, and the leaders of Guinea are in effect realizing the idea of a "party-state" which, in their opinion, is supposed to promote a strengthening of the anti-capitalist direction and revolutionary democratic essence of the Guinean state and the preservation of the party's leading position in the country. (See: "Guinea: Handbook," Moscow, 1980, p 74)

All of this speaks of the fact that a clarification of the essence of the revolutionary democratic vanguard parties is not only of great theoretical scientific interest, but also of great practical interest, for without a correct understanding of this question it will be difficult for the representatives of revolutionary democracy to solve the problems of their countries' further development along the path of socialist development.

As has already been said, the establishment of revolutionary democratic parties and their coming to power occurs under diverse conditions, which places its stamp on the structure and principles of the organization of the parties and on their practical activities, and influences their development. The reorganization of revolutionary democratic parties of the broad national front type into vanguard parties has its own special characteristics compared to the creation of vanguard parties in which, instead of political parties, the leadership belonged to the army, or, more precisely, to progressive military circles in the person of Revolutionary or National Councils. For example, the experience connected with the development of the People's Republic of the Congo reveals those tendencies which occur during the course of the evolution of a revolutionary democratic party into a vanguard one. As a result of the August 1963 revolution and the overthrow of the reactionary regime of Abbot Youlou, in 1964 a mass political organization was created in the Congo--the National Revolutionary Movement (NRM) which established a socialist orientation in its program. The subsequent evolution which was effected within the framework of the NRM,

especially after the adoption of the Charter of the NRM, testified to a gradual approach by the party to a program of anti-capitalist transformations. However, an exacerbation of the domestic political struggle in 1966-1968 led at first to the establishment of a regime of the personal power of President Massamba-Debat, and then to an open clash between conservative and revolutionary forces within the party which ended with the victory of the "31 July movement" (1968) and the taking of power by radical army circles and the formation of a National Revolutionary Council (NRC) led by Marien Ngouabi. After a short transitional period, at the end of 1969 there was a congress of the Congolese Labor Party (CLP) which instituted a vanguard party, ratified a new constitution, and proclaimed the country a people's republic. The CLP program speaks of the necessity for turning the CLP whose theoretical basis is Marxism-Leninism into an advanced detachment of the working class.

In his article "Ten Years of the Congolese Labor Party" the Chairman of the CLP Central Committee and President of the People's Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso noted that the CLP "was born as a result of a long conflict with colonialism and imperialism and their puppets as a party expressing the interests of the broadest popular masses and revolutionary forces and their aspiration to have a fighting organization based on scientific principles. . . ." (KOMMUNIST, No 3, 1980, p 87) The ranks of the CLP contain around 7,000 members of whom workers and minor employees comprise 55 percent, representatives of the revolutionary intelligentsia--22 percent, and peasants and military personnel--14 and 9 percent, respectively. (Ibid., p 94) This social composition of the CLP graphically testifies to positive qualitative changes in the party and to its role in the process of the development of the country along the path of a socialist orientation.

At the end of 1977 the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) was the scene of the first congress of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) which adopted a decision which was historic for the country's further development on transforming the socially heterogeneous FNLA movement into a single monolithic vanguard party--the FNLA-Labor Party. The congress consolidated the socialist orientation of the country's development. The FNLA-Labor Party intends to be guided in its activities by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and scientific socialism, and has set itself the goal of struggling for the construction in Angola of a new society free of the exploitation of man by man. The realization of this decision will require time and great efforts from the Angolan people which has adopted the course of socialism.

At the end of 1980 the FNLA-Labor Party contained more than 31,000 candidate members and members, with 51 percent of them being workers and peasants. (See: NOVOYE VREMYA, No 52, 1980, p 6) In accordance with the party's charter, the "FNLA-Labor Party is a vanguard party of the working class which unites in a close union the workers, peasants, revolutionary intelligentsia, and other toilers of the People's Republic of Angola who are devoted to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat. It is the leading and directing force of the entire life of the People's Republic of Angola. The party's basic strategic goal is the construction in Angola of a socialist society." (JORNAL DE ANGOLA, 16 February 1978)

The present stage of the struggle for a new Angola is being shifted to the sphere of constructive activity and of the accomplishment of the large and difficult task of the restoration of industrial and agricultural production, the strengthening of the state sector, the training of national cadres, and the education of the workers in a spirit of fidelity to the ideals of scientific socialism. In order to have wider participation by the popular masses in economic and social life the FNLA-Labor Party has directed the creation in the country of provincial agencies of peoples' power, and also of an assembly of peoples' power. The formation of a vanguard party in Angola armed with Marxist-Leninist theory and prepared to take upon itself the political direction of society is a necessary condition for the strengthening of the new power and for the development of the country along the path of social progress.

The creation of a vanguard party of workers and peasants was proclaimed in the People's Republic of Mozambique at the Third Congress of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) in early February 1977. In the program adopted by the FRELIMO Congress it was stated that this party is the conscious vanguard of the Mozambique people, and a voluntary fighting alliance which unites all of the progressive strata of society--workers, soldiers, peasants, and the progressive intelligentsia. The leading role in the party is assigned to the proletariat which is characterized as a class that determines the historical development of society. FRELIMO, it is noted in the program, will develop its relations with the world revolutionary movement, and especially with the Marxist-Leninist parties of the socialist countries. The program proclaims the guiding principle of the party to be proletarian internationalism, and, in accordance with the party charter adopted by the congress, its basic organizational and operational principle is democratic centralism.

The degree to which this program is being realized can be judged from the appraisal of the role of FRELIMO in the revolutionary transformations which has been given by the English journal AFRICA: "Despite failures and difficulties, FRELIMO has begun to improve the standard of living of most of the people of Mozambique. The old society which was characterized by privileges for the few and poverty for the majority is gradually being destroyed. Society is being reorganized on the basis of the socialist principles and practice which were worked out during the armed struggle with the maximum participation of the people." (AFRICA, June 1978) At the same time, as was noted by a member of the Central Committee's Permanent Political Committee and the Secretary of the FRELIMO Central Committee Marselina dos Santos at the 26th CPSU Congress, "The construction of socialism in Mozambique--a country of workers--is taking place under difficult conditions. Our country has only just begun this great work. Like the Soviet people during the first years after the great October Socialist Revolution, we are waging a struggle against hunger, poverty, disease, and illiteracy. We believe in our victory, we are confident of this victory." (PRAVDA, 1 March 1981)

According to the local press, the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin (PRPB) is a vanguard party based on the working class, the poorest and the middle peasantry, and the artisans. "The PRPB," the newspaper EHUZU notes, "is a

class party. It is the vanguard of the proletariat and of all of the exploited classes and strata of the People's Republic of Benin in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, and against all exploiters." (EHUZU, 5 December 1975)

The formation of vanguard revolutionary democratic parties in the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, and Benin testifies to the profound qualitative socio-economic and political transformations which are taking place in the life of the peoples of Tropical Africa. In these and a number of other African countries the peoples are becoming increasingly resolute in their rejection of capitalism and are moving along the path of the consolidation of their socialist orientation. They are increasingly understanding that the new society can only be built under the leadership of a progressive revolutionary party which bases its policy on the principles of scientific socialism.

In early 1980, expressing the ideological conceptions of the country's leading revolutionary democratic circles, the Benin newspaper EHUZU wrote: "The ideas of scientific socialism accord with the objective conditions of the development of the African countries and with the tasks of their economic and social liberation." (EHUZU, 24 January 1980) The newspaper unmasked the plotting of the enemies of Marxism-Leninism who were stating that the ideas of socialism are not appropriate for Africa. "Such inventions," it was noted in the newspaper, "are explained by the fact that the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist teaching which has been seized upon by millions of Africans is becoming a powerful real force which will sweep all exploiters from the continent. It is for this reason that the oponents of social progress are directing their poisoned arrows against Marxism-Leninism." (Ibid.)

Such ideological views on the part of the representatives of the revolutionary democracy of the African countries speak of the great potentialities of the vanguard parties, of their movement to the positions of the working class, and of the formation in the future of Marxist-Leninist parties.

Along with other countries of Tropical Africa, the process of the formation of a vanguard party has begun in Socialist Ethiopia. A joint Soviet-Ethiopian communique speaks of measures to create in Ethiopia a vanguard workers' party based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism. (PRAVDA, 18 September 1979) In accordance with this, at the end of 1979 a Commission for the Organization of the Ethiopian Workers' Party (COEWP) was created in the country. This stage of party construction was preceded by extensive activities by the leadership of the Provisional Military Administrative Council to create mass organizations among the workers, peasants, youth, and women.

In mid-June 1980 there took place the first congress of the COEWP which laid the basis for the creation of an Ethiopian vanguard workers' party. In the opinion of the leadership of the COEWP, the entire process of the creation of a vanguard party will embrace three stages: the first stage--the formation of the COEWP which began with the publication in December 1979 of the Decree On the Creation of the COEWP and concluded with the convocation of the First

Congress of the COEWP, the election of central bodies, and the working out of program documents and an organizational structure; the second stage is the creation of the vanguard workers' party itself. During it, it is planned to carry out political and ideological preparatory work with the masses, to select the members of the future party, and to develop the drafts of the party program and charter; the third stage is the election of delegates to a founding congress, and the preparation and holding of a congress of the vanguard workers' party.

The COEWP is faced with large tasks in the formation of the ranks of the party and the consolidation of all of the country's revolutionary forces for the purpose of carrying out the tasks of the national democratic revolution, finally eradicating the remnants of the feudal-monarchical system, creating a new democratic republic in the country, and building socialism.

The concrete analysis of the process of the formation of vanguard parties in a number of African socialist orientation countries gives us the possibility of drawing certain conclusions.

First, the vanguard revolutionary democratic parties whose formation has begun in a number of African countries are parties which unite in their ranks the representatives of the laboring people; that is, the working class, the peasantry, the working intelligentsia, progressive army circles, and so forth.

Secondly, the leadership of these vanguard parties is carried out by revolutionary democrats who, as the socio-economic and political transformations in the socialist orientation countries deepen, begin to be guided in their practical activities by the principles of scientific socialism and conduct work on the political education of the broad popular masses.

Thirdly, at the basis of the party organizational activities of the vanguard revolutionary democratic parties are such principles as democratic centralism, the formation of party organizations along production-territorial lines, admission into the party in accordance with the principle of individual selection, observance by all party members of party discipline and of active participation in one of the party organizations, and so forth.

Fourthly, basing themselves upon the working masses, the vanguard revolutionary democratic parties promote an increased role for the working class in society and expand their relations with other vanguard and Marxist-Leninist parties and with the international workers' and communist movement.

Fifthly, the practice of the socio-economic and political transformations in the socialist orientation countries shows that without the formation of vanguard revolutionary democratic parties a further development of the country along the non-capitalist path and a consolidation of the socialist orientation would be impossible. During the process of the deepening of the socio-economic and political transformations the vanguard revolutionary democratic parties may develop into Marxist-Leninist parties. The decisive factor here is the growth

of the working class and the strengthening of the organizational, political, and ideological positions in the ruling party. Time will show the forms in which this will occur.

The vanguard revolutionary democratic parties are the basic directing force in the political structure of the socialist orientation countries. They carry out their leadership by means of the development of a political line and program which all state agencies and public organizations are obliged to follow, by means of controlling the activities of these agencies and organizations, and by means of promoting its own leaders to responsible posts and perfecting the political structure and the work methods of its individual elements.

The strengthening of their relations with the communist and workers' parties is of great importance for the formation of the vanguard revolutionary democratic parties in the African socialist orientation countries. In the Accountability Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 26th Party Congress it is stated that the "CPSU will continue to consistently carry out a policy aimed at the development of USSR cooperation with the liberated countries and at strengthening the alliance between world socialism and the national liberation movement." ("Materials of the 26th CPSU Congress," p 15) In accordance with this policy, with each passing year there is an expansion of the CPSU's relations with the revolutionary democratic, including the vanguard, workers' parties of Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, the Congo, and others. Political contacts between the revolutionary democratic parties of the African socialist orientation countries and the communist parties of the developed capitalist countries are developing successfully. All of this testifies not only to the increased influence of socialism, but also to a strengthening of a fundamentally important direction of social progress which will promote the development of the world revolutionary process and mankind's transition from capitalism to socialism, the basis of which was laid by the Great October Socialist Revolution.

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INTERNATIONAL

BRIEFS

ROMANIAN TRADE UNION CHIEF VISITS ARMENIA--On 8 September the delegation of the Central Council of the General Union of Romanian Trade Unions [UGSR] headed by C. Onescu, chairman of the UGSR Central Council, which is visiting Yerevan, was received by K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian CP Central Committee. Participating in the talks were AUCCTU Secretary I.I. Gladkiy and L.G. Saskyan, chairman of the Armenian Republic Trade Union Council. The same day the delegation members visited Yerevan's F.E. Dzerzhinskiy Machine Tool-Building Production Association, where a Soviet-Romanian friendship rally was held. Addressing it, representatives of the enterprise's collective warmly greeted the Romanian guests. C. Onescu, chairman of the UGSR Central Council, cordially thanked the association's working people for the warm welcome and conveyed warm greetings from the working people of Socialist Romania. Cooperation between Soviet and Romanian trade unions, he emphasized, is constantly developing in the interests of the two countries' peoples and of the cause of socialism and world peace. The guests from Romania also visited the Matenadaran Scientific Research Institute of ancient manuscripts and the children's picture gallery. They made a trip to Razdanskiy Rayon, met with the working people of the Bzhni Village Sovkhoz and saw the republic's sights and historical monuments. [Text] [PM151217 Moscow TRUD in Russian 9 Sep 82 p 3]

CSO: 1807/10

NATIONAL

GRISHIN ATTENDS FOOD PROGRAM DISCUSSION AT MOSCOW CITY SOVIET

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jul. 82 p 2

[Article by V. Zakhar'ko, special correspondent for IZVESTIYA: "An Important Contribution to a National Cause"]

[Text] How is a maximum contribution to be made to our national cause--the fulfillment of the USSR Food Program? The deputies of the local soviets of a new convocation are now beginning active work with this thought and with the firm resolve to put the party's plans into practice. "On the Tasks of the Moscow City Soviet of People's Deputies Which Follow From the Decisions of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the Report of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev 'On the USSR Food Program for the Period Until 1990 and the Measures to Realize It'"--this is the way the first session of the Mossoviet, 18th Convocation, which took place on 2 July in the Hall of Columns of the House of Unions formulated its agenda. The chairman of the ispolkom of the Mossoviet, the Deputy V. F. Promyslov, delivered a report.

Moscow's industrial and scientific and technical potential is enormous. As the reporter and the speakers in the discussions noted, the capitol's labor collectives are increasing the influence of this potential on strengthening the material and technical base of the country's agriculture and on increasing the intensification of agricultural production.

More than 150 of the city's industrial enterprises produce and supply output for the village--motor vehicles, metal-cutting machine tools, equipment, electric motors, spare parts, and a large number of other products. Today it is important to see to it that every product corresponds to a high technical level and that the village's orders are filled accurately on schedule and in full, without violations of the contract commitments. Making use of the authority granted to the local soviets by the USSR Constitution and to the ispolkoms of the city and the rayon soviets, it was stated at the session, demands have to be increased upon economic leaders for the punctual fulfillment of plans and for the quality of output. It has been found necessary to activate the participation of the permanent commissions and deputy groups and posts in supervising the work of enterprises, particularly with regard to the accelerated

introduction into production of new types of agricultural equipment and machinery.

Science has a large role in the realization of the Food Program. In Moscow there are around 100 scientific academy institutions and branch institutes and designing organizations which are working on the problems of an intensification of agricultural production. During the years 1982-1985 a number of institutes are supposed to complete tests and introduce into production more than 20 experimental models of new and improved types of combines, tractors, and machinery and mechanisms for agriculture, as well as production equipment for the enterprises of the meat, dairy, food, and fruit and vegetable industries, and for trade and public catering. A great deal will have to be done to increase the effectiveness of the work of scientific institutions and organizations, to improve the use of their creative potentialities, and to concentrate the efforts of scientists on the solution of the chief problems of the development of agriculture and of the entire agroindustrial complex.

Moscow's construction workers have always given very tangible help to the village. During the present five-year plan they will use capital investments of more than 300 million rubles in rural areas. A number of large animal husbandry and swine raising complexes and large greenhouses will be built with these funds. Residential houses, schools, childrens' preschool institutions, and domestic and municipal objects will go into operation on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Nonchernozem Zone. Moscow Oblast alone is to see the commissioning of residential houses with an area of 222,000 square meters, 3 schools, 4 childrens' preschool institutions, a polyclinic, 4 clubs, new asphalt roads, and other engineering facilities. Direct patronage assistance to the village will become even stronger. Collectives from the capitol will build 16 animal husbandry sections and 150 storage units and warehouses and will perform work on production mechanization and equipment repairs on the ward farms.

The processing branches will be further developed. Moscow now has more than 100 enterprises of the food, meat and dairy, and fish industries. During the 11th Five-Year Plan it is planned to construct and reconstruct 40 enterprises and shops. Special attention here will be directed toward improving output quality, increasing the production of packaged goods, and improving packaging. The realization of measures connected with the construction, reequipping, expansion, and overall mechanization of production will make it possible to increase the production of basic food goods at Moscow's enterprises by an average of 30 percent, while for individual goods which are in increased demand the increase will be 1.5 times.

It is necessary, it was emphasized at the session, to improve the work of all of the organizations and services connected with the procurement, transportation, and storage of agricultural output. A great deal has been accomplished in this direction in the past years. During the current five-year plan modern vegetable storage units with a capacity of an additional 250,000 tons will be built. It is planned to locate some of them far from the city, on rural

fields--directly at the potato and vegetable production sites. The network of grain storage units, refrigerators, and warehouses will be expanded.

Container types of shipments are a large reserve in the use of transportation and in reducing idle time and output losses. By the end of this five-year plan there is to be a 2.5 times increase in container shipments of foods, and more potatoes and vegetables will be shipped in containers directly from the fields, above all, from the farms of Moscow Oblast. In order to increase food shipments not by bulk, but in special and convenient packing, it is planned to increase the special motor pool and also refrigeration transport by no less than twofold. The locomotive pool for operations on the railroad sidings of bases and warehouses will also grow.

An improvement of the work of the city's trade and public catering enterprises is important for the realization of the Food Program. The session mapped out measures to improve services at stores, dining rooms, and restaurants. By the end of 1985 more than half of the food will be served by the self-service method. The acceptance of advance orders will increase to 90 million orders a year. Trade organizations will expand their direct relations with kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other enterprises of the agroindustrial complex. New kolkhoz markets will appear. At all markets it is planned to create the necessary conveniences for kolkhoz workers and other citizens who grow fruits, vegetables, and berries for sale.

Subsidiary farms will increase their supplies to the city's population. The Mossovet ispolkom and the ispolkoms of the rayon soviets have been charged with providing effective assistance to enterprises and organizations in the search for free land and in strengthening the material and technical base of the farms being created and increasing their profitability. There are considerable reserves for increasing fruit and vegetable output in orchard and vegetable garden associations. There are now more than 180,000 plots with a total area of 14,000 hectares in the Moscow region. It is planned to put 131,000 gardens on additional land allocations. As was noted at the session, the cooperative farming administration of the ispolkom of the city soviet, the ispolkoms of the rayon soviets, and enterprises and organizations have to provide greater help to the gardening associations in performing labor intensive work on road construction, land improvement, and electrification and water supplies, and increase the sale of various types of construction materials and products, tools, and planting materials for fruit and berry crops.

Attention has also been directed toward such a matter as the collection and use of food wastes. Last year alone 950,000 tons of these wastes were moved from the city to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and this made it possible to economize almost 190,000 tons of grain and to obtain an additional 38,000 tons of meat.

The following deputies spoke in the discussions of the report: F. F. Kozyrev-Dal', the first secretary of the Krasnopresnenskiy CPSU Rayon Committee; V. F. Legkov, an automatic machine operator at the Truck and Tractor Electrical

Equipment Plant No. 1; N. P. Tregubov, the chief of the main administration for trade; V. I. Soldatov, the general director of "Mosmyasoprom" Association; N. T. Kozlov, the USSR Minister of the Fruit and Vegetable Enterprise; V. T. Saykin, the general director of the ZIL Production Association, and others.

A decision which was adopted at the session ratified a complex of work connected with the realization of the Food Program. The firm confidence was expressed that the capitol's Soviet of People's Deputies, and all Moscovites, under the leadership of the city party organization, would do everything necessary to realize the decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, and the theses and conclusions of the report by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev "On the USSR Food Program for the Period Until 1990 and On Measures for Its Realization."

The executive committee of the Moscow city Soviet of People's Deputies was elected at the session. The Deputy V. F. Promyslov was elected as chairman of the executive committee. A number of other organizational issues were also examined.

The work of the session was participated in by the Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the First Secretary of the CPSU Moscow City Committee V. V. Grishin and by responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee and the presidiums of the USSR and RSFSR Supreme Soviets, and by USSR and RSFSR ministers.

2959
CSO: 1800/861

NATIONAL

'NATIONAL' INTERESTS OF SOVIET REPUBLICS STRESSED

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA ZAKONNOST' in Russian No 2, Feb 82 pp 3-6

[Article by N. Farberov, professor, Honored Science Worker of the RSFSR:
"Lenin's Principles of the Creation of a Multinational State"]

[Excerpt] As was noted by the 26th CPSU Congress, the unity of nations and peoples in our country is now solidly founded and unshakeable. At the same time, the historic achievements which we have in the field of realizing Lenin's nationalities policy do not remove the necessity for continuing to show sensitive attention for the most correct ways of developing the individual nations and for the most correct combination of the interests of each with the common interests of the entire Soviet people.

Included here are cadre policy and a consideration of national characteristics and ideological and educational work and also of the specific needs of citizens in the field of culture, language, and everyday life.

During the course of the dynamic development of multinational Soviet society, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev noted in his report at the 26th Party Congress, the necessity arises for solving a number of other problems also. They include, for example, an increase in the scope of the training of qualified workers' cadres of the indigenous nationality in those republics in which demographic principles are developing more intensively and a surplus of labor resources exists; and a multiplication of the forms of cooperation between the republics in developing the new territories in the country's East and uniting efforts to advance the Nonchernozem rayons of the RSFSR; and a consideration of the interests of the non-indigenous population of the union and autonomous republics, particularly in ensuring their just representation in party and state agencies and others.

The flourishing of all of the republics and a maximum use of this for the harmonious development of the entire country and the strengthening of the union state--this is the course aimed at the internationalization of the life of all of Soviet society. The party congress again called for a resolute struggle against manifestations of chauvinism and nationalism and any national quirks which are alien to socialism, and for the education of the workers in a spirit of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism and of a proud feeling of belonging to a single Soviet homeland.

The new USSR, union, and autonomous republic constitutions ensure a combination of the national interests of each republic with the common vital interests of all of the workers of the USSR. These processes are organically interwoven with one another, enrich one another, and reflect the common and the special, the national and the international in the structure of our democratically centralized federative organization.

Soviet people are marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR with shock labor to carry out the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the tasks posed by the November (1981) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and in the speech by L. I. Brezhnev at this plenum, and in the name of strengthening the might of their multinational Soviet Union State.

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2959

CSO: 1800/858

NATIONAL

STUDY FINDS SOVIET CITIZENS POORLY INFORMED ABOUT LOCAL AFFAIRS, MEDIA BLAMED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Jul 82 p 2

[Article by V. Ivanov, doctor of philosophical sciences, professor at Academy of Social Sciences at CPSU Central Committee: "With Civic Responsibility"]

[Text] It is generally known that an individual's political qualities are formed above all in the production collective. But do we always fully appreciate the entire complexity of this process? Research which has been conducted by scientists from the Academy of Social Sciences at the CPSU Central Committee at enterprises in Chelyabinsk Oblast has made it possible to pose a number of problems which are in need of understanding and resolution.

Who today can be called a politically cultured person? What qualities characterize him? It is clear that he has to be equipped with solid political knowledge and possess a broad political horizon. But this is not enough. The knowledge he has obtained has to be smelted into personal convictions, passed through the prism of emotion, feelings, and conscience. Only then, speaking in the words of K. Marx, do political ideas become knots "from which you cannot break out without breaking your heart. . . ." And, finally, the politically cultured person has to be a public figure in the broadest meaning of this word, that is, a person who with his everyday actions actively affirms the rightness of his knowledge and convictions.

What Interests Us?

First about political knowledge. . . . During the course of the study we attempted to find out the degree to which people are satisfied with information on four levels: on the events of international life, on events within the country, on events within the oblast (city, rayon), and, finally, on the situation within the production collective. In this way, what was obtained was something like four information circles.

It was logical to assume that the closer the information source to the center of the circle (that is, to the person), the more active would be its influence on people. And the "closest" information should be the most effective: one need not know what is happening beyond the seas, but how is one not to be up-to-date on one's city, enterprise, or collective? The study, however, showed that in fact everything was the other way around.

Thus, almost 85 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the information on the international situation coming from the central newspapers and the radio and television, while only one-fifth of them had a favorable opinion about the same information coming from "local" channels. Why do people know more about events abroad than about events in their own city--the number of satisfied respondents was 27 (!) percent less? Why are less than half of the enterprise workers satisfied with the infomation about the situation in their labor collective?

There are, of course, explanations. One of the reasons is the slow restructuring of the work of the local mass propaganda media which frequently do not seek new forms of influencing the reader or listener and do not have their own individuality. Frequently political information in the labor collective is also conducted in accordance with a single cliche. And this means that the general principles of the party's economic, social, and cultural policies risk remaining in the consciousness of people as something abstract and distant, since they have not been concretized in keeping with the local specifics of a region or enterprise and with the special way they will be perceived in a given collective. The lack of concreteness and the inflexibility of political information and the substitution of general calls and arguments for a practical analysis also contains another danger. The information vacuum begins to be filled by pseudo information: false rumors, conversations heard somewhere by someone, and the turbid waves of foreign "radio voices."

We know that even all-union information which is seemingly well-known from the newspapers and the television screen, when it is reported in the collective and refracted through its specifics is perceived differently--with more emotion and trust. And this is understandable. It is comprehended in the process of immediate intercourse, of the clash of views and opinions. It is a very good thing if it is also reinforced by the authority of the personality of an economic or party leader who talks with people, or by the authority of the collective which delivers its collective opinion of what has been heard and said. In the final analysis, it is precisely in the collective that public opinion is formed.

The Feeling of a Master

How is the political knowledge which is acquired directly in the labor collective used by a person? Does it not work out like this: there is knowledge and there is knowledge, but the life of an enterprise, real economic practice--they are off by themselves? At the enterprises of Chelyabinsk Oblast an attempt is made not to permit this gap. This is promoted by such forms as a single political day and party committee and rayon committee days at the enterprises, ideological planning sessions, and the unity of political and economic information. But, of course, the most direct path is to involve people in every way in the management of the affairs of their plant, shop, or team.

In conducting our studies we were especially interested in how account is taken of the workers' opinions in deciding such matters as rating increases and promotions, the distribution of housing and the granting of resort and

sanitorium authorizations, bonuses, and childrens' preschool institutions. It turned out that only around seven percent of the respondents believed that the workers' opinions on these matters are not considered in their collectives. This, of course, is also not a small figure. But what is alarming is something else: every third respondent could not give a definite answer to the question. Consequently, this group of workers does not know to what extent, by whom, and how their opinions are considered. The absence of sufficient publicity and an underestimation of collective forms of discussing important matters has a negative influence. It gives rise to negative educational consequences: a person does not feel himself to be complete master in his own collective, and the opinion is formed that everything is decided by the administration, that is, socio-political and managerial passivity are stimulated.

Need we discuss how important public work and a well-conceived system of public commissions is for the formation of an individual's political culture? The study showed that most of the activists at the surveyed enterprises were clearly aware of the importance of the public work performed by them. They are impelled to public work by their feeling of responsibility to the collective and a desire to correct shortcomings and make a personal contribution to improving the enterprise's work. However, every third respondent from among those who performed public commissions said that in their collective there was a certain indifference to public matters, every fourth pointed to formalism in carrying out public measures, and every tenth admitted that he did not see the results of his work. And so a "scissors" was revealed: on the one hand, an interest in public work and a high opinion about its importance, and, on the other, an insufficient effectiveness in the realization of this interest. Here is where there is a broad field of activity for party committees and for all public organizations. Recently we have been speaking a great deal and rightly so about production reserves. Let us also think about public activeness reserves. One is inseparably bound up with the other here.

Of What Is a Collective Capable?

It is known that a draft law on the labor collective is being worked out in which the rights of a collective in production management will be even further deepened, developed, and juridically consolidated. The need for this is indubitable.

Let us take, for example, the present system of material and moral stimulation. On the whole, it is quite effective. However, certain of its elements are in need of improvement. Unfortunately, the discovery of reserves, the reduction, for example, of the number of workers at some sector of an enterprise does not always lead to an increase in the wage level in the material stimulation fund. It turns out that an enterprise's initiative in discovering reserves is in a certain sense punishable or limited. Sometimes the collective which works best objectively gets into more difficult circumstances than enterprises operating on lower levels.

It is clear that this is a result of imperfections in the planning and management mechanism which, as was noted at the 26th CPSU Congress, is not yet being reorganized with sufficient energy.

The reasons for this "lack of energy" are diverse. They include obsolete thinking stereotypes (economic and political) among certain economic leaders. Nor is there active work everywhere by the party organizations of labor collectives which have the task of defining policy in the realization of economic and educational matters and of exercising party supervision over the administration. It is probably necessary to be more persistent in seeing to it that the fundamental issues of management--the approval of long-term plans, annual reports, the adoption of commitments, the distribution of funds, and the conclusion of collective agreements--are always the subject of collective discussion and decision.

The results of the study conducted in Chelyabinsk have become the property of party committees, and the sociologists' conclusions and recommendations have been discussed at practical scientific conferences. However, we have regarded it as not being superfluous to return again to the problems which were studied, for their significance is by no means regional. The feeling of being master of one's enterprise, a high level of public activeness, and broad political culture are inalienable features of today's worker. Their formation is a matter of paramount importance.

2959

CSO: 1800/867

NATIONAL

READERS DISAGREE ON VERACITY OF LETTERS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Yu. Khoritskaya: "Assert Yourself Kindly"]

[Text] Oh, what an argument has broken out! With what heat the readers have discussed the article "Don Quixote from Toropets" (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 30 May). Some praise it; "The newspaper has published it in a timely and topical manner". Others are indignant: "An incorrect and harmful article".

Let us delve into the multiplicity of judgments, which the mail has brought, and compare them.

However, first -- briefly about the article itself. The subject concerned a veteran, an individual with a restless spirit who reacts sharply to disorders which occur in his city and who writes from time to time about this to the newspapers. Several of his letters have been addressed to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. When checked out, it turned out that the material, which was stated in them, was nothing more than an amalgam of truth and rumors, of that which was and that which the city rumor-mill had given birth to.

Why was the veteran, an individual full of strength and the desire to be useful to society, acting the part of an "observer from the side" who informs about what he knows and hears? -- The article was devoted to a reflection on this.

And here are the replies

We will begin with that which evoked a sharp protest from some readers: "I am insulted for the hero whom the author called Don Quixote",

"...M. Lotsmanenko has been undeservedly pasted with the sobriquet Don Quixote. A clear insult is seen in this", "... You have created Don Quixote out of an honest man"

Let us examine whether the comparison with Cervantes' hero was praise or abuse.

Let us open the first pages of the book:

"I fight, I thrust, I strike, I whirl, I defeat,
I take vengeance on those who create evil and who live by deception,
And in slight-of-hand, courage and martial ardor,
I eclipse all knight errants...."

A brave man, a disinterested person, a good soul --- these virtues made him immortal. And conversely: did not the name of the man from La Mancha, passing through the centuries, become the embodiment of courage, kindness, and disinterestedness?

Long live the Don Quixotes -- people who desire to make life around them purer, more honest, and kinder. However, even the most decent and most sympathetic individual is not immune to errors and mistakes. That is why the position of the veteran from Toropets was a research subject. Speaking briefly, the subject concerned the individual's selection of the means of combat: For example, to "signal" in the appropriate departments, including the press, about errors and blunders in the work of this or that department, establishment and official or to intervene even more actively in what was taking place, join the work and help to eliminate that evil which the protest was challenging.

In continuing the discussion which had been begun by the newspaper, the readers joined in the search for an answer to these questions.

Here is what Shadrin, an inhabitant of Vladivostok, thinks.

He writes: "At one time during the Twenties, these Don Quixotes were called worker correspondents. The worker correspondents were told that if their notes had five percent of the truth, send them to the newspaper". Let us pay attention to this -- especially as Comrade Shadrin's point of view coincides with the opinion of other readers: "... Think, they write in the editorial staffs on the basis of rumors. But where are rumors born? There is no smoke without fire...."

Six decades have passed since the time about which Shadrin writes when a worker correspondent "condoned" 95 percent of what was untrue for the sake of the five percent which was true. The reader has changed. The nature of the mail has also changed. However, the attention to each letter remains as before -- very respectful and very serious. The editorial regards each letter as a very valuable human document, as a "visiting-card" for our activity, and as an indicator of that about which our contemporary is thinking, that to which he is striving, and that against which he is protesting.

Therefore, were the letters of Lotsmanenko not a research subject?

A whole series of letter writers posed the question as follows: "... You did not speak about this". Here is how P. Shchegolev an inhabitant of Zhukovskiy, a city near Moscow, expressed this thought. "... The local authorities often put off the solution of questions, citing the fact that their 'hands do not reach' this or that matter.... However, let everything be solved effectively and there would be no need for Don Quixotes to write to Moscow". The author of this letter draws the conclusion that the article defends sluggish officials. However, is this so? V. Lukashin from Novosibirsk has a different opinion: "The newspaper is right.

A working individual will never approve one, who -- standing near by -- gives him the rejoinders: not this way and not that way. The one, who is giving the advice, will himself not endure for long. Rather, he will roll up his sleeves and begin to help...."

E. Poluyanovaya's letter from Orel Oblast also develops this thought in its own way. "... We are discussing different disorders a great deal, but we ourselves are indifferently passing over that which requires our direct intervention: We will not straigthen out a foul-mouthed individual (it allegedly is not our business), we will not throw a stone from the road (it apparently doesn't disturb us), etc., etc...." Here, it seems, the readers are moving to a very interesting discussion and touching upon one of the most acute problems in our public existence. You see, they are essentially talking about the true feelings of a master of the country, about the common responsibility for the general task and for mistakes also, and about the position of a citizen.

We will cite one other letter -- a Leningrader, G. Pankof, sent it.

He writes: "... Take these same notes in the newspapers, read them carefully, and you will see that a considerable part of them are driven by a spirit of consumerism and parasitism.

"... The words 'give' and 'you must' are the position of inhabitants with respect to -- for example -- the local soviet or rayon housing adminstration."

The author of the letter cites an interesting example. In one of the small cities, a new housing tract was erected after the elimination of private houses with personal plots where the owners had cultivated gardens, planted trees and laid out flower gardens. These same people had been lodged in the new houses. G. Pankov writes: "... The old men were deprived of their usual pursuits in the personal plots. What did they do? They simply sat around the houses and began to 'work with their tongues'. There was dust and disorder about, but regardless they 'scratch'. What do you think served as the favorite subject for their discussions? No more than what a poor ispolkom they have: It cannot organize public amenities on their territory...."

Do you see what often happens? It seems that as soon as an individual bustles about, he arranges something -- he has acted, he has created, and here he is sitting on a small mound of earth along the outer walls of a peasant's house, and having retired from everything, he requires organization, cares and concerns -- on the side.

Outright consumerism. There is no other name to pick for this type of position. Its harm is evident. The need to struggle against it is also evident -- because this position is far from being as inoffensive as it may appear at first glance.

We cite P. Shchegolev's letter again: "... M. S. Lotsmanenko does not pass over with indifference -- as many others do -- the shortcomings which exist in the life of his city. For some reason, however, the directors and executives, who should do this, do not notice and do not eliminate these shortcomings. Therefore, who should be criticized?"

Dear Comrade Shchegolev, let us think about this together: Does the position of a citizen's parasitism and consumerism bring less harm than, for example, procrastination? Yes, strictly speaking, are they not related -- these varieties of public evil? You see, both the one and the other are essentially one and the same "stimulators" -- a certain sluggishness and laziness, if you wish. To sit and write a "message" somewhere today is at times simpler than participating in a specific task, taking a highly principled position in open debate and defending it without being afraid of "reprisals", etc.

And what is red tape if not laziness and the desire to "fence oneself off" from the task with references and excuses.

A. Voyevodina, an inhabitant of Toropets, wrote the editorial staff about the author of the letters from the same city: "... You see, he only wanted good for the people!" Many other readers understood M. Lotsmanenko this way. They went into his reflections further and more deeply. I. Smirnov writes from Orenburg: "... How many of these Don Quixotes do we have who are ready to fight for honor and justice but who do not know from which direction to approach the task...." "... Apparently, our problems are that no one thinks seriously about our brother veteran and does not engage in research on how to better use our strengths and our 'restlessness'. But it is drifting -- it is also drifting...."

With this type of thinking, they openly continued that part of the discussion which had been begun by the newspaper, which touched upon the lack of information of city-dwellers about events which find themselves at the center of public interest and of "agitated minds" and which, consequently, are rapidly becoming a source of conjectures and fictions.

"... Would that they would not count us, people with an agitated spirit and veterans, 'in the reserves' ahead of time, but use our strengths appropriately...." -- this was the opinion of many letter writers (G. Sorokin from Omsk, L. Timofeyevaya from Kostroma, etc.). A completely understandable desire. People do not want to "sit on the earthen wall". They do not want to profess the "ideology of an individual from the earthen wall".

The urgency of the problem is evident. The mail testifies to this. The official reply, which the editorial staff received from the Tortopetskiy party raykom, also testifies to this. The article "Don Quixote from Toropets" was recognized as correct and topical. A number of measures have been defined whose goal is to reorganize the work with city-dwellers, including labor and war veterans.

... Concerning Mikhail Sergeyevich Lotsmanenko, we received a line from him after returning from Toropets. "... After your departure, I thought about a lot, I understood a great deal...."

8802
CSO: 1800/1291

NATIONAL

NEWSPAPER STRENGTHENS TIES WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Aug 82 p 3

[Article: "We Are Waiting for Advice"]

[Text] Our editorial mail is becoming more voluminous and interesting, and the bond between the reader and the newspaper is growing stronger. Disarmament, peace, the situation in Lebanon and South Africa, the struggle of the workers of the United States and Japan -- these and other problems arouse a desire to write to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and to express an opinion. Yes, to express one's opinion -- they do not only ask us questions but also provide an appraisal of various international events more and more frequently.

A discussion on how to satisfy the growing readers' demands and how to make the newspaper more interesting took place during a meeting with the aktiv of the international department. Party workers, scholars, writers, journalists, and responsible TASS and Novosti Press Agency workers assembled in the auditorium.

To be closer to the reader: to write more convincingly, clearly and effectively; to use all types of newspaper writing without exception -- these were the main thoughts expressed by the participants in the meeting. With the wide-spread expansion of the mass information media where a multimillion television and radio audience has taken shape, the role of newspapers in commenting on events, which are taking place, and in explaining their political meaning and substance is growing. Professor G. Bondarevskiy, the well known Soviet publicist E. Genri, the writer V. Chichkov, and others talked about this.

The participants in our meeting also conducted a discussion on how to tell about life in the socialist countries in a more interesting manner. Today, the newspaper must become a platform for exchanging experiences in socialist construction and a publicist of the best achievements of our friends. Party workers V. Antonov and G. Ostroumov and others talked about this.

A. Krasikov, the deputy general director of TASS, and other journalists gave useful practical recommendations.

What were the results of the meeting? A concrete action program was developed. A consultative council has been created from among the specialists and international journalists. The bond of the newspaper with its non-staff writers has been strengthened. An understanding has been achieved with TASS and the Novosti Press Agency: Their correspondents abroad will send more material especially for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA from the planet's "hot spots". The names of new authors will appear on our pages, and problem-solving articles on urgent questions of international life, political lampoons and satires will be published more frequently.

However, the discussion of the international field has not been ended. We are waiting for good advice from you, dear readers!

8802

CSO: 1800/1288

NATIONAL

'VOPROSY Istorii KPSS' PRAISED ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY

[Editorial Report] Moscow VOPROSY Istorii KPSS in Russian No 9, September 1982 carries on pages 149-157 an 8,000-word report titled "The 25th Anniversary of the Journal 'Problems of the History of the CPSU'" by V. K. Tkachenko. The article reports on a 14 July 1982 meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of this journal. The various speakers described the development of the journal since its founding and praised its work. COPYRIGHT: Izdatel'stvo "Pravda," "Voprosy istorii KPSS," 1982.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL PARTISAN STAFF RECALLED

[Editorial Report] Moscow VOPROSY Istorii KPSS in Russian No 9, September 1982 carries on pages 59-66 a 5500-word article titled "On the Question of the Political Work of the Central Staff of the Partisan Movement" by Zh. G. Adibekova. The article describes the political work of the Central Staff of the Partisan Movement during World War II. It explicitly notes that the Bryansk, Western, Kalinin, Karelo-Finnish, Leningrad, and Ukrainian partisan staffs were subordinate to it. COPYRIGHT: Izdatel'stvo "Pravda," "Voprosy istorii KPSS," 1982.

BREZHNEV'S ROLE IN LEVELLING MOLDAVIAN URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENCES STRESSED

[Editorial Report] Moscow VOPROSY Istorii KPSS in Russian No 9, September 1982, carries on pages 3-18 a 12,000-word article titled "The Experience of the Communist Party of Moldavia in the Resolution of the Problems of the Rapprochement of Town and Countryside" by I. G. Ustiyan, Chairman of the Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers. The article recounts the narrowing of urban-rural differences in standard of living in the Moldavian republic and gives particular credit to L. I. Brezhnev both during the period he served as first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party in the 1950s and more recently. It includes extensive statistical information. COPYRIGHT: Izdatel'stvo "Pravda," "Voprosy istorii KPSS," 1982.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES FAIL TO KEEP UP THEIR READING, STUDY FINDS

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 September 1982 page 4 carries a 200-word article titled "Have They Not Lost Interest Too Soon?" by V. Ogurtsov. The article reports on a recent study of university graduates in the Ural region which found that very few of them make use of the university library after graduation. The article argues that education does not end with a university diploma and that graduates have an obligation to keep up their reading.

PROBLEMS IN NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IDENTIFIED

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 September 1982 carries on page 4 a 2400-word article titled "The News...With a Delay". The article is unsigned. The article reports on various delays subscribers have experienced in receiving their copies of SOVETSKAYA ORSSIYA. The editorial staff supplies the following explanation at the foot of the article: First, "not everywhere" is the phototelegraphic system used effectively. Second, transportation difficulties are often to blame. And third, "at times" the postal system does not work efficiently. The editorial note suggests that there are "possibilities and reserves" for the rectification of this situation.

OBKOM SECRETARY ON CAREFUL USE OF ENGINEERING CADRES

[Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 September 1982 carries on page 2 a 1500-word article titled "The Authority of the Engineer" by V. Dmitriyenko, secretary of the Chechen-Ingush oblast party committee. Dmitriyenko stresses the importance of supporting engineering cadres adequately so that their productive capabilities will be most fully used and warns against assigning them to positions in which they have no opportunity to do the work for which they were trained.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN PROCEDURES IN USSR OUTLINED

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 September 1982 page 4 carries an 800-word article titled "Arm Oneself with a Compass," by V. Tsybul'skiy. The article reports on the interlibrary loan services available to local Soviet library patrons and also bemoans the fact that so many popular books are simply disappearing from the shelves.

OBKOM SECRETARY ON MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 September 1982 page 2 carries a 300-word report titled "On the Level of New Tasks." The article reports on a speech by I.A. Bondarenko, first secretary of the Rostov oblast' party committee, to a party-economic meeting in that region. In his speech, Bondarenko described the importance of the combines produced in his area and suggested that their rate of productivity would increase in the near future.

PAVLIK MOROZOV-TYPE LETTERS REPORTED, QUESTIONED

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 September 1982 page 2 carries a 2600-word article titled "Difficult Love" by Marina Cherednichenko. The article reports on letters written to Soviet newspapers by children denouncing their parents for one or another kind of misbehavior. The writer notes that such letters are "anti-natural" but concludes that in fact they show the genuine concern of the children for their parents.

OBKOM SECRETARY ON INVESTMENT NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 September 1982 page 4 carries a 2200-word interview titled "Harvest Work Teaches" of V.S. Murakhovskiy, first secretary of the Stavropol' kray party committee. In it, Murakhovskiy describes the efforts of his party organization to improve ideological training and economic efficiency during the harvest and calls on Gosplan, the agricultural equipment ministry, and the State Committee on Agricultural Technology to increase investment in agriculture.

CSO: 1800/23

REGIONAL

FIRST VOLUME OF LATVIAN SOVIET ENCYCLOPEDIA ISSUED

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 22 Aug 82 p 2

[Report on interview with P. Yeran, chief editor of Latvian Soviet Encyclopedia's main editorial office: "The First Volume of Latvian Encyclopedia"]

[Text] The first volume of the Latvian Soviet Encyclopedia has been issued. More than 20,000 copies have already been bound; a total of 75,000 will be published. This edition is a major event in the cultural life of our republic. The first volume has 6,000 articles, nearly 2,000 illustrations and 89 maps. A collective of 832 authors and 227 consultants worked on its creation.

A SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA correspondent asked P. Yeran, chief editor of the encyclopedia's main editorial office, to comment on this event.

The current Latvian encyclopedia is a composite part of a system of Soviet encyclopedias, a general-purpose edition of which there have been none in our republic so far, P. Yeran said. The Latvian Soviet Encyclopedia [ISE] provides the reader with rich factual material, which has been built on a strictly scientific basis. The encyclopedia will contain condensed but comprehensive information on all countries in the world, their nature, population, history, political system, economy and so forth; on achievements of human culture; on distinguished figures of communist parties and the international workers' movement; and on prominent representatives of science, culture and theater. A large part of the material is devoted to the Soviet Union and Latvia as an organic composite part of the country. The encyclopedia will include detailed information on our republic's sociopolitical development, on all aspects of its national economy today and on its achievements in the fields of culture, science, public health and education.

All those who worked on preparation of the first volume had to traverse a difficult path. It was necessary, first of all, to think out in detail the scientifically based structure of the entire encyclopedia, to determine the necessary volume and, finally, to compile a record of words--a glossary--in

alphabetic order. The major articles in the first volume are devoted to agrarian policy, Africa and the United States. The collective of authors worked under the supervision of the Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences. Among members of the encyclopedia's editorial collegium are A. Malmeyster, president of the republic's academy of sciences; A. Drizul, its vice president; and V. Samson, chief scientific secretary. Incidentally, the latter was the first chief editor of the encyclopedia's main editorial office at one time. The editorial collegium also includes academicians V. Shteynberg, A. Blyuger, Ya. Stradyn and others, many corresponding members of the academy, responsible party and Soviet workers and distinguished cultural and art workers of Latvia. As regards the authors, then you must agree that it would be just impossible to name all of them on the pages of a newspaper. Their names are listed in the first volume. I would only like to mention that artists M. Kampara, V. Lukina, G. Elers and others are working on the encyclopedia's design.

The artistic and graphic design of the first volume can be judged by the fact that it has already been awarded first places at the republic contest of editions and at the interrepublic review in Vilnius. We have won a second place at the all-union contest in Moscow. Here it must be noted that the judges did not award the first place to anyone. Much credit for such success belongs to printers of the Rizhskaya model printing house where typesetters M. Kalnyna, A. Vizinya and I. Shmire, printer P. Korenevskiy, retouching brigade leader V. Tanne, retoucher N. Shtilevska and others have worked remarkably well on issuing the first volume. The book was bound at the Tsinya printing house where special equipment was installed for this purpose.

The second volume of the Latvina Soviet Encyclopedia has now been prepared for printing. We hope that readers will be able to receive it by the end of this year. The third volume has been turned over for typesetting. The collective of the encyclopedia's main editorial office is now working on the fourth and fifth volumes. Specifically, the second book of the fifth volume, which is devoted to Soviet Latvia, is being made more exact.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to request all readers to send us their comments and wishes regarding the content and design of the first volume of the encyclopedia, P. Yeran said in conclusion. Good advice will be of invaluable help to us in further work on the LSE, which will consist of 10 volumes. Incidentally, it is planned to issue an additional special volume in Russian language devoted to Soviet Latvia.

9817

CSO: 1800/1211

REGIONAL

LATVIAN ATHEISTIC PROPAGANDA WORK DETAILED

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 22 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by V. Liyepinsh, chairman of the Valmiyerskiy raykom's council on atheism and merited cultural worker of the Latvian SSR: "The Power of Persuasion"]

[Text] Scientific atheist propaganda has an important role in the formation of a new man--an active builder of communism, a conscious fighter for the ideas of Marxism-Leninism. It is called upon to free man from the fetters of religious prejudices and superstitions and to lead him to the path of materialistic understanding of the world and of his place and role in it as a creator and reformer of life.

Atheistic training in Valmiyerskiy Rayon is built upon a system tested in practice, an organic component part of which are the activities of the council for scientific atheist propaganda of the Valmiyerskiy raykom.

For many years it has maintained constant and fruitful contacts with primary party organizations of enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, organizations and educational institutions of the rayon. Such interaction helps in coordinating efforts of the numerous aktiv and in achieving effectiveness of atheist propaganda.

Thus on the initiative of Kh. Tamane, deputy chairman of the council and instructor of the raykom, people responsible for atheist training and political information workers-atheists have been nominated and confirmed at enterprises, on farms and at places of residence. At regularly held seminars, they are addressed by well-known scientists and lecturers who familiarize the listeners with the rayon data on the attitude of various groups of the population toward religion and render systematic assistance in organizing and improving atheist propaganda and in work on individual basis aimed at changing the mind of believers.

We attach great significance to verbal agitation, lectures, talks and question and answer soirees. E. Ratniyetse, member of the council and director of the Valmiyerskaya Secondary School imeni Odinnadtsati Geroyev-Komsomoltsev, has been achieving good results by using these forms of work. She also conducts a

section of scientific atheism at the rayon Knowledge Society. The experienced propagandist has been devoting particular attention to raising the effectiveness of lectures and talks. Working under her supervision are such skilled lecturerers-atheists as M. Tocha, director of the meat and dairy industry's SPTU-28; A. Ulmane, manager of the Valmiyerskiy educational and consultative center of the Rizhskiy Polytechnical Institute; A. Paegle, special pension recipient who has been a party member for more than 50 years; and others. The lectures and talks presented by them are interesting, easy to understand and leave not even the most difficult question unanswered. Of course, this requires considerable preliminary preparation, thorough selection of material and the ability to use facts. Consequently such presentations arouse thought and evoke the necessary reaction of the listeners.

Question and answer soirees, which is another effective form of atheistic propaganda, have completely justified themselves. Hundreds of participants including believers attend such meetings in Valmiyera, Mazsalatsa and Riyena. There is frank talk at such soirees about the groundlessness of the church advocated moral and ethical values and the harm of religious delusions. Such confidential meetings help to debunk various legends and rumors and the prejudices that still exist sometimes. Questions are also often answered by local party, soviet and economic spuervisors, teachers and physicians.

Propagandists improve their skill at seminars organized by the Latvia CP CC and the republic Knowledge Society. They also study at the republic school for atheists and at rayon study courses. Our council strives to equip lecturers as completely as possible with necessary materials which expose the reactionary essence of religion and the close links that the church in Western countries has with monopoly capital and with leaders of the ideological subversive centers, which are actively participating in the "crusade" against communism.

We oppose church rituals with Soviet everyday traditions. Much is being done in this respect by A. Kruminya, member of the council on atheism and secretary of the rayispolkom. She heads the commission on Soviet everyday traditions, which is sponsored by the raykom's propaganda and agitation department and the rayispolkom. The fact that the percentage of baptized children is pitifully low in our rayon, that only a few couples get married in church and that the number of priests has noticeably declined is explained by the attractiveness of Soviet rites. The ceremonial registration of the newborn or of marriage at a rural soviet or at the rayon civil registry office is popular. Graduates of secondary schools mark their coming of age in a festive, joyous atmosphere each spring. They begin by laying flowers at the monument to Lenin in Valmiyera and later participate in a solemn soiree in the rayon House of Culture where they are presented with brightly and artistically designed certificates. Such rituals upbring a citizen and accustom young men and girls to energetic public activities.

Most diverse measures connected with atheistic education are organized by houses of culture, clubs, libraries and the regional museum of history and art, especially by its affiliate located in the old church in Simanisa. There

is a concert hall in operation in it now. Organ music soirees and painting exhibitions are also held there. This work has been assigned to our council member Z. Priyedite, chief of the rayispolkom's department of culture and merited cultural worker of the Latvian SSR.

Sociological research indicates that it is almost impossible to come across school-age children in churches and prayer houses located in the territory of our rayon. This, of course, is good. They are not experiencing religious influence. But a future citizen with active position in life must be able to independently and correctly evaluate religious vestiges and to refute them in a well-reasoned manner. That is why groups of young atheists have been formed in many schools in the rayon. Corresponding lectures are also organized for parents of the schoolchildren.

A group on atheism and criticism of bourgeois ideology has been organized at the rayon House of Pioneers this year. At the same time, an interschool lecturing bureau on subjects devoted to scientific atheism has also begun operating. Next year, we plan to organize regular consultations on questions of atheism and criticism of bourgeois ideology for social science teachers in schools. As always, our council member M. Ruberts, chief of the rayispolkom's public education department, will assist us in this.

There is no need for special research to be convinced that the main mass of visitors to churches in the rayon are elderly people, pensioners. This category of the population is also in our field of vision. Studies for them have been organized at the people's university for more than 10 years. They are conducted by M. Tocha. But it is not always possible to convert a believer into an atheist in this manner. Nevertheless, it is no less important to explain atheistic principles to the straying, to drop the seeds of distrust toward religion in their souls.

The faculty of veterans of labor is supervised by O. Latsmus, chairman of the rayon pensioners council and former director of the Valmiyerskiy Furniture Combine--a person of erudition, broad-minded, a communist. The faculty, which is attended by hundreds of listeners, both believers and non-believers, works in the Gaysma movie theater. The people are addressed by rayon leaders and specialists, scientists and lecturers. Documentary and feature films on atheistic subjects are shown to them.

I would like to stress that in the struggle against religious vestiges in the consciousness of the people we have been adhering to the Leninist principle--we use methods of persuasion and only persuasion. We regard the printed word as an important aid in our work. A thematic page "Thoughts About Faith and Skepticism" has been published monthly by the rayon paper LIYESMA for many years. Articles by Z. Balevits, A. Podmazov and other scientists; V. Kpucha, merited teacher of the LaSSR; Ya. Fabriks; poets V. Ruya and Z. Purvs; and well-known teachers and workers in culture and education appear on its pages. The paper also makes its pages available to believers who found strength to break with religion.

In analyzing the experiences and obvious achievements, we do not forget that which has not yet been done. First of all, it is necessary to select propagandists and lecturers even more accurately. Not everyone can be assigned to speak on such a complex and at the same delicate subject as atheism. We do not know the reaction of listeners well enough. In our work inverse communication is necessary so that we would know the views and demands of the people.

The question of generalizing experiences on the interrayon level is also on the agenda. I am convinced that there are interesting and useful experiences everywhere. They must be made available to all. The publishing houses in the republic could do more in propagating them than they are doing now. The question, first of all, is about the shortage of posters and other visual aids on atheism.

Aktivists of the council on atheistic propaganda are constantly striving to stir up their activities and to be on the offensive against religious vestiges. They are searching for forms of work and methods of influence which will lead to increased effectiveness of atheistic propaganda.

9817
CSO: 1800/1211

REGIONAL

LATVIANS URGED TO BE CAREFUL WITH PASSPORTS

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 24 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Col Militia Yu. Kovalev, chief of the Passport Department of the Riga gorispolkom's Internal Affairs Administration: "A Citizen Received a Passport"]

[Text] A great sociopolitical and economic campaign to exchange and issue passports of a new type has ended in our republic and in the country as a whole. The new statute on the passport system in the USSR establishes that every citizen of our country must have a passport on reaching the age of 16 regardless of where he lives--in a city or rural area. The new passport is permanent. However, on reaching the age of 25 or 45 citizens are required to apply promptly at passport sections of internal affairs departments at places of permanent residence for pasting in new photographs in passports. It must be always remembered that without such photographs or registration the document is considered invalid and cannot prove the identity of its owner when presented to state institutions or organizations.

A passport is the principal civil document and must be cherished as the apple of one's eye. But not everyone does this. For example, more than 1,600 passports were lost by Riga residents during the first 6 months of this year alone. Many of them have been punished administratively by paying fines.

Passports find themselves in various places. They are carried in outer pockets of overcoats, shirts, coats and jackets and carelessly dropped. Without any particular need they are taken to markets and stores and placed in shopping bags and string bags together with purchased goods and foodstuffs and are left unattended in the bags on counters.

One is simply amazed at how irresponsibly some citizens treat this document. With unusual flippancy such people write in their applications: "I don't know where I lost the passport; I have not seen it for more than half a year." "I have been carrying it with myself in a handbag, it was not there later, it disappeared." "There were repairs, I think I lost it during the repairs."

The militia workers have much difficulty in impressing upon these irresponsible, careless people that the issue is not the fine but the disrespectful attitude toward Soviet laws and regulations of the Soviet passport system and disregard for an important state document.

The reader may ask: "What is so terrible about losing a passport?" One must bear in mind that it is necessary to do extensive work before issuing such a new document to replace the one lost: inquiries must be made at various departments in search for the lost passport during a 1 month period. Many associates, who already have a broad range of service responsibilities, are forced to take care of this. New passports cannot be issued without investigation and checking the circumstances of their loss. Moreover, the lost or carelessly kept passports may be taken advantage of by various kinds of transgressors or even criminals.

In short, respect, cherish and value this document.

9817
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REGIONAL

THEFT OF STATE PROPERTY EXPLAINED

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 6 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by A. Svetlov, department chief at the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of State of Law, doctor of juridical sciences: "Socialist Property Is Inviolable"]

[Text] The USSR Constitution states: "Citizens of the USSR are obligated to look after and strengthen socialist property." This obligation is honestly and undeviatingly carried out by the overwhelming majority of Soviet people, whose honest labor for the good of the motherland is a source of growth and strength for socialist property and the strength and might of our country. Our common prosperity serves the socialist state and all the workers. Therefore, a decisive struggle against any forms of encroachment on it from persons infected with the bacillus of money-grubbing and the private-ownership mentality is a most important task for all of society.

The CPSU demands that an atmosphere of intolerance be created about persons who live on unearned incomes or engage in embezzlement, bribe-taking, extortion or speculation. Such people should be unmasked and made responsible in accordance with the full strictness of our laws. The need was pointed out at the 26th CPSU Congress "...using all organizational, financial and juridical means firmly to close any loopholes for parasitism, bribe-taking and speculation, for unearned incomes, and for any encroachment on socialist property." In order to do this it is essential to gain an understanding of what kind of circumstances prompt individuals to crime.

At the UkrSSR Academy of Sciences Institute of State and Law specific sociological studies are being conducted to study the conditions in which individual kinds of crimes are committed. Analysis of factors encouraging violations of the law serves as a basis for preparing proposals and recommendations for dealing with crime. Taking into account the fact that the greatest proportion of all embezzlements take place in trade enterprises and public catering enterprises, our staff, together with workers of the UkrSSR Prosecutor's Office, have made a study of their causes.

First, attention is drawn to the fact that in most cases of embezzlement investigated, they have been perpetrated systematically and over a prolonged period of time. Cases

of one-time embezzlement make up less than 10 percent. Analysis showed that one of the chief conditions encouraging these criminal acts is inadequate control over the storage of material values, which in some trade workers engenders a sense of impunity. A number of crimes could be immediately stopped given the most elementary control.

Here is an example. A certain Revda used to work in the supply workers' canteen at one of the plants in Dneprodzerzhinsk. She noted that some of the milk cartons that were received by the canteen were torn, with the milk dripping out. These products were returned to the dairy. On the second set of invoices sent back with the cartons Revda made an amendment, increasing the number of torn cartons. She passed the invoices through the bookkeeping section of the supply workers' canteen and removed an amount of money or goods equal to the amount of the addition. Over 3 years Revda stole state assets worth more than R22,000. And throughout this entire period the bookkeeper at the supply workers' canteen never once checked the documents with the dairy, which would have revealed the embezzlement immediately.

The research conducted and a study of criminal cases showed that the administrative auditing apparatus is still dealing inadequately with embezzlement. Thus, despite the fact that most crimes continued over long periods, in almost one-third of cases no check of the inventory or audit had been carried out by the organizations during that time. Or they were mere superficial formalities, and, in essence, revealed nothing.

Take this example of an inventory check done at the "Yunyy tekhnik" store in Cherkassy. The members of the inventory commission not only did not count the goods, they did not even check that they were present. As a rule, the commission chairman was absent during inventory checks. The store workers knew about the inventory check ahead of time, which provided them with the opportunity to take steps to cover shortages. Ten such "inventory checks" were done at this store.

At many stores inventory checks are done in violation of existing normative acts, taking place only once annually or even less frequently. Moreover, the requirements in the instruction that inventory lists should contain the name of the item, the brand, size and price, in addition to the nomenclature mark, are not being satisfied. Instead of an accurate description of the nomenclature for specific goods, general descriptions ("overcoat," "suit," "boots" and so forth) are put on the lists. This provides no opportunity for checking the correctness of the price and the total value of the goods in a store.

It is not without interest to note that the existing practice has virtually no incentive factor for the work of the auditing commission. If the auditors unmask a crime, then the trade enterprise or trust will be the object of criticism and its direct manager and the chief bookkeeper will lose their bonuses. And this is often the basis for direct concealment of shortages or for making merely formal checks.

The level of professional training for auditors and inventory checkers is still low. A study of a considerable number of criminal acts showed that in most cases inventory checks and audits in trade were being done by inadequately qualified people with little experience of the work. Accordingly, many of them, even if they wished, were not always able to reveal sophisticated swindles.

In our republic, despite the availability of two trade-and-economics institutes, an institute of public catering and teknikums for Soviet trade, the training of commissions for auditing work in trade is poorly conducted. Only a few dozen hours of training are given on this matter in the VUZ's. Evidently there is an urgent need to organize the training of specialists qualified in auditing work.

Shortcomings in accounting and accountability also frequently lead to embezzlement in trade. An analysis of criminal acts shows that primary documents for the movement of goods and material values are often handled carelessly, in random form. The rules of bookkeeping accounting forbid the acceptance of documents not drawn up in accordance with established procedure. But they are nevertheless still included in bookkeeping accounts. Knowing this practice and convinced that any kind of document they fabricate will be accepted for accounting, the thieves take advantage of such opportunities.

At public catering enterprises blank forms for accounting documents for material values (produce and goods) do not meet the requirements laid down in USSR and UkSSR ministry orders; they are often drawn up in random form and they do not contain the necessary requisition orders and signatures of officials obliged to control these operations. Thus, in a criminal case of embezzlement at the "Otdykh" restaurant (Kirovograd), most of the statements for the sale of ready-to-eat dishes were written out by hand without the necessary requisition orders and signatures.

Despite the fact that persons working in trade have access to and disposal of major material values, there are frequent cases in which people who have previously been convicted of abuses and embezzlement are accepted for work in stores, restaurants, bases and so forth. This applies particularly to the system of consumer cooperatives and the workers' supply sections of various administrations.

Many years of practice show that one condition encouraging embezzlement in trade is the possibility of removing cash that is not put into the till. To this end many thieves working in stores where there are cash registers organize the sale of goods all about the store so that payment is made away from the cash register, and try to keep certain drawers open, and so forth, so that they always have cash in their possession.

All these shortcomings in the organization of trade leading to the embezzlement of socialist property can be swiftly eliminated with effective control. At the same time, thought should also be given to drawing up both a series of all-state measures and new normative acts to strengthen the protection of socialist property. We think that there is an urgent need to pass a law on state accounting in which the fundamental norms for accounts for material values in the national economy and their main kinds and forms would be included.

Since internal administrative control does not insure the necessary effectiveness in protecting socialist property, it would be expedient to study the question of creating an interdepartmental auditing apparatus (a question that has been repeatedly written about).

Accounting in trade lags considerably behind today's requirements. Under the conditions of the scientific and technical revolution there is every possibility

for introducing automatic management and control systems and to use this method in stores that sell clothing, footwear, radio sets, electrical goods, watches, furniture and so forth. It is time to start to introduce electronic equipment for calculations in self-service stores and department stores. This will greatly improve accounting for material values, reduce the numbers of accounts workers and provide an opportunity for daily analyzing consumer demand and the availability of goods in the store.

In the matter of preventing theft an important role is played by the public organizations and worker collectives. An atmosphere of intolerance toward people who violate the law and persons committing embezzlement, various kinds of maneuvers and the abuse of professional positions is an essential condition for a solicitous attitude toward the common property.

9642

CSO: 1800/1202

REGIONAL

ESTONIAN PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH NATIONALITY, DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

Tallinn KOMMUNIST ESTONII in Russian No 6, Jun 82 pp 8-12

[Article by G. Sillaste, lecturer in the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia: "What the Questions Say"]

[Text] "Can drunkenness be eradicated?"; "Why show liberalism toward drunks and parasites?"; "Where does consumerism come from in our society?"; "Why are children protected against physical labor?"; "Do all young people need to have a secondary education?" . . . These are only some of the more than 60,000 questions which have been asked in 1981 in various halls of the republic of party committee lecturers and reporters.

During the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia and the party gorkoms and raykoms registered and analyzed almost 60,000 questions. This impressive figure is another proof of the fact that the lecture serves not only as an important form of propaganda, but also as a reliable channel of feedback, a source of the very rich information which is contained in listeners' questions. An analysis of these questions discloses for us the audience's range of interests, its attitude toward various events and phenomena of public life, and the depth of its understanding of the Communist Party's policies, and, as was noted at the 26th CPSU Congress, together with the information of primary party organizations "helps to take account of public opinion and to see local situations more concretely." Indeed, it can be said without exaggeration that collected and generalized, these questions very accurately reflect public opinion, and it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of the conclusions drawn from them for information and propaganda work.

Thus, listeners' questions are one of the forms of the expression of public opinion. In the scientific literature public opinion is defined as a specific form of the existence of mass consciousness which contains attitudes (hidden or open) toward public events and toward the activities of different groups, organizations, and individuals. It expresses a position of approval or condemnation with respect to various social problems, regulates the behavior of people, social groups, and institutions, implants specific norms of social relations, and operates both within the framework of society as a whole and within the framework of the different classes and social groups.

By expressing the attitudes of people toward social reality, public opinion thereby actively influences the development and adoption of political, ideological, and other decisions, and serves as one of the motive forces of social development. As an important factor in the scientific management of society, it is used by our party for the accomplishment of the tasks of communist construction and for the struggle against various negative phenomena. Public opinion, to use the words of A. Makarenko, becomes a totally material and actually palpable factor of education.

The following basic functions of public opinion are demarcated from one another: social, regulative-educational, informational, and criterion of the effectiveness of ideological work. Opinions, suggestions, and questions, especially those which are constantly repeated in a mixed audience, are to a definite degree an indicator of the state of public opinion and of the maturity of social consciousness. Its object is above all facts and events and phenomena and processes which are of interest to society and which provide the grounds for an exchange of opinion and for creative discussion.

Public opinion is formed under the influence not only of the major and long-term processes and events which occur in society, but also under the influence of so-called one-time events, especially if they touch upon the interests of a large group of people. But, as a rule, the object of public opinion is the various major events and party and government decisions which retain their importance over a long period of time. For example, after Comrade L. I. Brezhnev reported the Politburo's decision to develop a Food Program in his speech at the October (1980) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the following questions began to be asked at lectures on the party's economic policy, on the socialist way of life, and on other topics: "What is the Food Program?"; "What is it essentially about?"; and "When will it be adopted?"

Before the 26th CPSU Congress for objective reasons lecturers were unable to satisfy the interest of listeners. The press did not contain sufficient information. For this reason the stream of questions grew. However, the profound analysis of the goals and content of the Food Program at the 26th CPSU Congress, the development of the republic draft food programs, the preparation of information and reference materials in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia and their transmission to the party aktiv, and a series of problem articles in the republic press helped the formation of a favorable public opinion regarding the long-term Food Program.

In addition to sociological studies, or, to put it differently, direct socio-logical questionnaires, public opinion is also studied through such channels which are used in party work as:

- 1) the documents, communications, and information of party and Komsomol organizations;
- 2) workers' letters and statements sent to party, government, and Komsomol bodies and to the editorial boards of the mass information media;

- 3) the questions asked of lecturers and reporters, political information workers, and agitators (on condition that they are recorded in documents);
- 4) meetings between leading workers and workers;
- 5) the suggestions and comments of students in all of the elements of party and economic education.

The basic difficulty in studying public opinion consists not so much in an insufficiency of material as in the insufficient mastery of the methods of concentrating data which is received from diverse channels. If account is also taken of the departmental disunity of the various organizations studying or attempting to study public opinion, the necessity for well-conceived party leadership of this work becomes obvious. The overall study of public opinion and party influence on its formation are the precondition for the practical solution of many problems.

Public opinion demands more and more new data. Consequently, information is not only a means of forming it, but also an indispensable condition for its existence and development.

In the process of the formation of public opinion lecture propaganda, together with other means of ideological influence, accomplishes three basic tasks. First, it reinforces already formed public opinion which objectively evaluates various phenomena and problems of social life. Secondly, it fosters the formation of public opinion about issues on which it has not yet been formed. Here individual propaganda campaigns are conducted together with other means of information, but with specific methods which are characteristic solely of lecture propaganda. For example, answers are given in lectures to questions which have not been sufficiently treated on radio and television, in the newspapers, and so forth.

And, finally, it must be considered that even in socialist society there are people who adhere to erroneous opinions on various issues of social life, have religious views, or follow outmoded and even borrowed from alien milieus customs, mores, fashions, and so forth. From this follows lecture propaganda's third task which consists in changing opinions and views which contradict the moral norms of socialist society.

During the course of a lecture, two interconnected tasks are accomplished: information and evaluation. The lecturer not only provides information on a given topic, but also evaluates events, phenomena, and facts from principled positions, basing himself on Marxist-Leninist theory and the authority of previously expressed public opinion.

". . . we Marxists," V. I. Lenin wrote, "have to strive with all of our power for a scientific study of the facts which are at the basis of our policies."*

*V. I. Lenin, "Complete Works," Vol 34, p 109

One of the methods of accomplishing this task is an analysis of the questions which are asked of party committee lecturers. We shall attempt to trace how on a basis of such an analysis public opinion about important problems of our life is discovered.

With normal contact with an audience the lecturer always receives a sufficiently objective and full idea of the needs, feelings, and desires of people. Insofar as the listener usually remains anonymous when he asks his question, he has a natural and free feeling, especially if he has found a competent person to speak with in the person of the lecturer. The fact that questions are repeated makes it possible to correctly discover the problems which are agitating people at a given time, and their preferential interest in various phenomena of social life. As an analysis of listeners' questions shows, it is useful to classify them by the scope of the problems they touch upon, the degree of repetition, and their general thematic thrust.

With regard to scope, questions are divided into those with a local and those with a general political character. Of the questions asked in 1981, 43 percent concerned local problems. Most of them were generalized in city and rayon party committees which also organized supervision over the elimination of the shortcomings expressed in the listeners' questions.

One is struck by the constant increase in the number of questions concerning matters of a local character. In certain cities and rayons during the fourth quarter of 1981 they comprised from 72 to 90 percent. The Pyarnu gorkom and the Valgaskiy, Pylvaskiy, and Paydeskiy raykoms ought to analyze the reasons for the growth tendency of these questions and what they most frequently express.

In 1981 57 percent of the questions had a general political character. Of them, 72 percent concerned our domestic policies and 28 percent our foreign policy and the international situation. The republic's population continues to have a predominant interest in the problems of the country's domestic life. In 1981 there was an increased interest in intra-political problems also within the republic's youth audiences in which in the past questions on the international situation had been dominant. Far-reaching conclusions should probably not be drawn from this fact too quickly, but the change in the youth's interests undoubtedly merits serious attention and interpretation.

Thus, the population is showing an increasing interest in the problems of the country's and the republic's domestic life, which, naturally, requires that every party committee make a careful analysis of the state of affairs in the various sectors and take measures for the rapid resolution of the questions which have been raised. At the same time, there should be an improvement of the coordination of the actions of local agencies and greater publicity about the elimination of shortcomings, and the collectives from which the questions have come should without fail be informed of the measures which have been taken.

Questions are subdivided with respect to the degree of their repetition into frequently repeated questions, constantly repeated ones, and infrequent ("signal") questions. In studying public opinion questions which are constantly repeated are of especial importance since it is they which reflect formed and operative public opinion. Frequently repeated questions, and also "signal" questions are characteristic for the initial stage of a public opinion being formed. In most cases "signal" questions express a critical attitude toward certain shortcomings in labor collectives or in rayons and cities. In analyzing such questions it is always useful to compare them with the actual state of affairs. Along with the frequently repeated ones, "signal" questions testify to the appearance of rumors and make it possible to discover the reasons for their appearance, which is very important to consider in the management of ideological work.

An analysis of the distribution of listeners' interests by concrete thematic directions provides rich information on the formation of public opinion. Of the 1981 questions of a domestic political character, 66 percent concerned concrete economics and economic policy, 17 percent--the social program, and 16 percent--the problems of ideological work and communist education.

In their questions on the economy (in 1981 there were 4,420 such questions--400 plus more than in the previous year) the workers are interested in the state of trade and domestic services, capital construction, transportation, communications, and agriculture. Their questions reflect a concern about such phenomena as the unbalanced plans of certain enterprises, shortcomings in the organization of production and labor, low output quality, and weak planning discipline. The prospects for the development of the republic's agroindustrial complex have been giving rise to a lively interest.

The problem of prices was repeatedly touched upon; moreover, frequently the character of the questions clearly reflected rumors about an allegedly forthcoming price increase for food and other prime necessities. The spreading of misinformation had an effect on the sales dynamics of a number of goods in stores in July and August of last year. As is known, these rumors were refuted in September 1981 by the communication from the State Committee for Prices that the retail prices for the basic food and non-food goods would remain stable.

Since 1979 the number of questions on the party's social policy has been constantly increasing. Great interest is shown in measures to improve the people's well-being. Most often the questions here concern social security, health care, culture and sports, and the regulation of wages. There has been a marked decrease in the number of questions concerning housing, although they continue to be asked, especially by workers in the non-production sphere.

Last year substantially fewer questions were asked than in 1980 about ideological work and communist education. Almost one-third of the 1,060 questions had to do with the problems of legal education. The workers are most interested in measures being planned to strengthen the fight against such antisocial

phenomena as drunkenness and parasitism, speculation, and bribe-taking. The questions and suggestions contain a demand that a decisive stop be put to all kinds of speculation in scarce goods. At the lectures the listeners ask again and again: Is not our society too humane with anti-social elements and violators of labor and social discipline? Cannot drunkards, hooligans, and bribe-takers be punished more severely? Is it planned to place further limits on the sale of alcoholic beverages? I think that the legal experts are right when they say that the problem today is not so much a hardening of the laws as their absolute observance on all levels.

A substantial increase in the number of questions about internationalist education and national relations can be observed. Whereas three years ago these were isolated, "signal" questions, in 1981 they began to be constantly repeated in mixed audiences. Many suggestions are made on improving the system of Estonian language courses, including the creation of study groups at places of work, and also on the mastering of conversational speech in language studies in the schools. With a view toward the workers' wishes, last fall Estonian television introduced a teaching program for those desiring to study the Estonian language.

The exacerbation of the ideological struggle is reflected in the increased number of questions on this topic: whereas in 1980 180 of them were recorded, in 1981 there were more than 280. Basically, these questions are of a dynamic character; they change rapidly and reflect so-called one-time phenomena in connection with which public opinion is formed. Examples are international incidents, a worsening of the world situation, and exacerbation of the ideological situation, and so forth. The amount and content of the questions on the ideological struggle make it possible to form a definite judgment about the degree of influence and currency among the population of misinformation from imperialist special services and propaganda centers.

In view of what has been said it is obvious that there should be a deeper treatment of the problems of the ideological struggle in the lectures for the student youth. Studies show that most of the senior graders turn for explanations of the foreign information they have received not to their parents and teachers, but to their contemporaries. At the same time, certain lecturers are not very willing to speak to pupils, regarding them as a too restless and troublesome audience. Party committee reporters also rarely speak with the youth. Making use of the possibilities of a single political day is insufficient for explanatory work among pupils. And the lecturers who do nevertheless speak in school lecture halls do not always disclose their topic in an understandable and sufficiently well-argumented way. The lecture groups of the Komsomol committees could do a great deal to strengthen lecture propaganda in the schools.

The information listeners have about the problems of foreign policy and international relations is much inferior to their knowledge of domestic political life. And this is entirely explainable. Practice confirms that during major social and political events in the life of our country peoples' interests

quickly shift to the field of domestic policy, which probably explains the fact that in 1981--the year of the 26th CPSU Congress--the number of questions on foreign policy and international relations decreased to 28 percent (compared to 34 percent in 1980).

What aspects of international life are of most interest to the listeners? Last year 45 percent of the questions (substantially more than in 1980) concerned the state of and prospects for the development of the world socialist system. There was an increase in the number of questions on the problems of security and cooperation in Europe, which was primarily connected with the events in the Polish People's Republic. The character of the questions in the second half of December 1981 reflected a unanimous support for the measures adopted by the party and state agencies of the Polish People's Republic for the stabilization of the situation in the country.

And so, what does an analysis of the questions provide? Toward what ends can its results be used?

The above-cited examples are only drops in the sea of questions which have been analyzed in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia. It is important for every lecturer and reporter to know precisely what interests his listeners and to be prepared to explain a situation in a party, well-argumented, and understandable manner, and to help people to see and to understand things which perhaps are not always sufficiently clear.

An analysis of the questions can be used for

- 1) better information for lecturers which is the purpose of the appearance at their seminars and conferences in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia of leading workers from the Central Committee's branch departments, and also from the ministries and departments who give explanations for the most frequently touched upon questions, and report what has been done to eliminate shortcomings reflected in them;
- 2) an improvement of the methodological assistance for lecturers in the ideological aktiv;
- 3) the development of recommendations on topics for the press, television, and radio;
- 4) an improvement of the coordination of the work of the various institutions and departments involved in the organization of lecture propaganda;
- 5) a strengthening of counter-propaganda and explanatory work in the localities.

This list, of course, far from exhausts the possibilities for using the results of question analysis. They could be much more widely used, for example, by the mass information media.

Sometimes lecturers express their perplexity: Why enter a question on a perforated card if a reply has already been given to it? Of course, the paramount duty of every lecturer is to give the most valid possible reply to a question. Nevertheless, it is useful to register all questions. Gathered together, they comprise a kind of catalogue of the interests and needs of the listeners. Then it is useful to separate the constantly repeated questions and enter them on individual cards together with the valid replies. In this way a personal information and reference fund will be formed for the lecturer.

In addition, listeners' questions serve as a unique indicator of the quality of a lecture, and point to what may have been omitted by the lecturer. The next time, preparing to speak before the same category of listeners, the lecturer will be able to use his catalogue: add material, or remove what is superfluous.

An analysis of the questions asked of party committee lecturers and reporters is by no means an end in itself, but a means of studying public opinion, improving the management of ideological and political educational work, and, in the final analysis, strengthening the educational influence of the decisions which are made. A systematic study of public opinion by this method represents an important lever for the scientific management of the economic, social, and spiritual processes in Soviet society in order, as V. I. Lenin taught, "to know how to faultlessly determine the feelings of the masses and its real needs, aspirations, and thoughts on any question and at any moment. . . ."*

In our republic around 150,000 lectures are read annually, and more than 6,000 people are present at them. A study of their opinions, views, needs, suggestions, doubts, and wishes which are so often expressed in their questions to party committee lecturers and reporters is an important condition for improving the whole of the ideological educational work of party organizations.

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*V. I. Lenin, "Complete Works," Vol 44, p 348

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DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONS DISCUSSED AT SYMPOSIUM

[Editorial Report] Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian publishes two articles, one on 22 September 1982 p 2, the other on 25 September 1982 p 3, totaling 1,000 words, under the headline, "International Symposium on Armenian Linguistics." The 3 day meeting took place in Yerevan in the main lecture hall of the Academy of Sciences. It traced the development of the Armenian language from an ancient tongue to a contemporary idiom and focused on linguistic comparisons to related languages. One of the principle aims of the symposium was to bring together more than 100 linguists and philologists, not only from research centers in the USSR, but from 10 foreign countries as well, including the USA, Belgium, France, East Germany, Poland and Hungary. Continued cooperation and collaboration among scholars was emphasized with the aim of furthering the study of the Armenian language.

Chairman of the Yerevan Gorispolkom, Murad Muradyan welcomed the participants and wished them new successes in their research. He commented on the almost 3,000 year history of the city and its proud heritage as well as on the modern aspects of Yerevan's growth into a "youthful" city, into a great scientific and cultural center.

Armenian academician, E. Agayan, presented a paper entitled, "The Development and Social Role of the contemporary Armenian Language." He noted that the establishment of Soviet power "opened up great possibilities for the development of economic and political life, as well as for a national culture, including a native language." Muradyan continued by adding that prior to the revolution, "many peoples of Tzarist Russia were deprived of their own state system and independence, as well as of the possibility to develop economically and culturally." Finally, "united under a single central government," Agayan added, "the newly-formed Soviet Power had the task of eliminating, as quickly as possible, the economic and cultural inequality of the more 'backward' (otstalye) nations." Agayan placed the Armenian language in a social context when he asserted that it has made "unprecedented development...and today has become a national language, equal to the most developed and the richest languages of our time, used in official, administrative and diplomatic spheres."

ARMENIAN WRITER PRAISED FOR NATIONAL, UNIVERSAL SENTIMENTS

[Editorial Report] An 800 word unattributed article appears in Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 19 September 1982 p 2, to honor the 50th birthday of the distinguished Armenian prose writer Vardges Petrosyan. Entitled "The Lofty Civic Duty of a Writer," the article acknowledges Petrosyan for his great influence on Armenian literature particularly in the 60's and 70's at which time the writer, in order to develop his characters, introduced psychological elements into his writing. It notes that Petrosyan, together with his contemporaries, gave prose a "new philosophical understanding for its time" by dealing with actual problems of contemporary society as well as with the "moral education" of the individual. The article also mentions that notwithstanding Petrosyan's deep sense of national pride, his works describe Armenian "reality" in a broad perspective, "opposing any attempt to confine national art to a narrow framework."

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